

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, MX

SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN AERIAL REPATRIATION OF ILLEGALS

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM DEPUTY INS COMMISSIONER GREENE INFORMING US OF DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS IN AERIAL REPATRIATION PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO COMPLETION OF 11-PAGE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EACH REPATRIATE. PERTINENT PORTIONS OF LETTER ARE:

QUOTE: ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SPECIFIED AND AGREED TO THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED IN THE EXPERIMENT, SUBSEQUENT UNILATERAL ACTIONS ON THEIR PART ARE SERIOUSLY HAMPERING OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, A SECOND SECTION OF A REGULARLY SCHEDULED UNITED STATES AIRLINE FLIGHT WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BECAUSE IT WAS TO TRANSPORT INTERIOR REPATRIATES. IN ADDITION, ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 20, 1976, MEXICAN CONSULS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO TO EXECUTE AN ELEVEN-PAGE PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EACH ALIEN BEING RETURNED TO MEXICO UNDER THE PROGRAM. INFORMATION ON THE FORM CONCERNING

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DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, NATIONALITY, RESIDENCE IN MEXICO

AND IDENTITY DATA IS ALREADY CONTAINED IN DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THIS SERVICE AND IS AVAILABLE TO CONSULAR

OFFICERS FOR REVIEW.

FIELD OFFICERS HAVE INFORMED US THAT COMPLETION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE REQUIRES APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF HOUR. COMPLETION IS SO TIME-CONSUMING THAT THE MEXICAN CONSUL IN DENVER, COLORADO HAS UNILATERALLY DECIDED TO INTERVIEW ONLY FIVE ALIENS DAILY, THUS LIMITING AIRLIFT DEPARTURES FROM DENVER TO THAT NUMBER. SUCH TACTICS, ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION AT OTHER LOCATIONS HAVE ALSO PREVENTED THE UTILIZATION OF UP TO 80 AVAILABLE SEATS ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS.

DELAYING ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE ARE NOT ONLY SERIOUSLY HINDERING THE PROGRAM AND INCREASING COSTS TO THIS SERVICE BUT ARE ALSO IMPOSING UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS ON THE ALIENS INVOLVED AS A RESULT OF LONGER PERIODS OF DETENTION.

IN 1975 THIS SERVICE COOPERATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO WHEN A NUMBER OF MEXICAN NATIONALS WERE INTERVIEWED AT CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA, AND A SIMILAR QUESTIONNAIRE WAS COMPLETED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO FEELS INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE IS REQUIRED IT COULD BE OBTAINED AT THE POINT OF ARRIVAL IN MEXICO. IT WILL, THEREFORE, BE APPRECIATED IF YOU WILL MAKE NECESSARY REPRESENTATIONS TO ASSIST US IN THE ALLEVIATION OF THIS PROBLEM. END QUOTE.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO EXPLORE WITH APPROPRIATE MEXICAN OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF MODIFYING QUESTIONNAIRE PROCEDURE EITHER AS SUGGESTED IN FINAL PARAGRAPH QUOTED ABOVE OR IN SOME OTHER WAY STREAMLINING PROCEDURE. POINT SHOULD BE MADE THAT CURRENT PROCEDURE IS IMPOSING UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS ON ALIENS INVOLVED AS A RESULT OF NEED FOR LONGER PERIODS OF DETENTION PRIOR TO THEIR REPATRIATION.
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